



Registered Charity Number: 1134149

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2026

TRINITY 16



DIARY

Sunday 20th September TRINITY 16

9.30am Morning Prayer service at Langley Vale

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's

6.30pm Open Evensong service at St Martin's

An invitation to join the choir to sing Choral Evensong:

Sunday 20th September, 6.30pm

Enthusiastic singers are invited to join our regular choristers in the stalls for the first Choral Evensong of the new term. The

5.15pm rehearsal finishes in time for tea and cake before the

service at 6.30pm. The music Iain has chosen includes:

Responses by Radcliffe, Stanford's Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in Bb and Harris' anthem 'Fear not, O land'. Music and robes will be provided. If you want to know a little more, please ask Iain or one of the choristers.

Tuesday 22nd September

Take Time To Talk – 'We make the path by walking'

(tea and biscuits from 3.45pm in church)

If 'life is a journey' then how do we proceed on it? What should we take with us? And other questions!

Do come and join us - and bring your experiences and ideas.

Wednesday 23rd September

10.00am Holy Communion service at St Martin's

Thursday 24th September

Jean Urquhart's Funeral at St Martin's

Jean's funeral is taking place on Thursday 24 September at 11.30am, followed by burial at the cemetery at 1pm.

Friday 25th September

St Martin's Church closed for filming

Please note that there will be no access to the church during the day as filming is taking place to produce a practical guide on contested heritage for churches.

Sunday 27th September Trinity 17 / Harvest

9.30am Holy Communion service at Langley Vale

10.00am Harvest Celebration – Morning Praise at St Martin's

6.30pm Compline service at St Martin's

St Stephen's Update

In mid-July, we held a successful kick-off meeting with the contractor handling the Phase 1 building works at St Stephen's. Since then, the contractors have been awaiting the delivery of a key part of the structural framework, which is scheduled to arrive this month. Once all constituent parts are delivered, they will manufacture the new window frames at their workshop before coming on-site to complete the replacement of the windows, doors, and wall. We expect to receive confirmation of the start date later this month and will update the congregation as soon as the final timeline is confirmed.

Once these structural works are complete, a team of gardeners will perform essential maintenance on the church grounds, focusing particularly on trimming back the trees and shrubs that have overgrown during the closure.

A huge thanks to Frances for all her hard work setting up the services every Sunday in the Village Hall.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please reach out to us via email at wardens@stmartinsepsom.org.

Rob Jeffery & Sarah Lutton, Churchwardens

Thank you to those who care for our Garden

Over the past few months, I have heard many of the congregation and visitors to St Martin's comment and praise the wonderful displays of flowers at the entrance to the church at the west door. They have been particularly impressive during the long hot summer we have experienced. Also, I know that those walking past the memorial garden have marvelled at the colourful flowers and shrubs there. Of course, those who are gardeners will have realised that a lot of hard work was involved in sustaining these flowers during the successive heat waves, with daily (even sometimes twice daily) watering. We are very grateful to all those who have helped to take care of the garden during the past challenging months, including Graham, Mary Gilbert, and, in particular, Martin who has taken such care to ensure that all the flowers and plants have been well-watered so that they not only survived but flourished during those long hot days.

Revd Judith

Eco Fair Collaboration

St Martin's is joining forces with Epsom Methodist Church for a stall at this year's Eco Fair, on Saturday 26 September, from 10.30am to 3pm. The theme for our stall hasn't been decided yet, but one idea would be to highlight a Christian sustainability campaign, such as Christian Aid or Operation Noah, and draw the attention of people attending the Fair to the work they do.

We'll need a few people to come along, spend some time at the stall, and smile at those passing by — encouraging them to stop for a chat and take a closer look! If you have an idea for something you think would be good to promote, or you'd be happy to help staff the stall, please get in touch. I'm not exactly inundated with ideas or enthusiastic stallholders at the moment...! It's a great opportunity to make St Martin's more visible in the local community — and there will be cake!

Helen Williams

'Here I Stand' at St Martin's in the Fields, London.

The autumn series of lectures, 'Here I Stand', begins this month. The lectures can be attended in person, or you can join by Zoom if you register in advance. The following lectures may be of particular interest to us:

David Crystal — *For Ever and Ever*

Monday 12 October, 7pm

The famous linguist David Crystal celebrates the 500th anniversary of William Tyndale's translation of the New Testament.

Sam Wells — *Three Hundred Years at the Heart, On the Edge*

Monday 19 October, 7pm

Sam Wells, Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields, reflects on the history and identity of St Martin's. The church is known for proclaiming an ever-open door and welcoming everyone. But what are the fundamental commitments that lie at the heart of this community? These talks may be especially interesting to us as St Martin's is now part of the Inclusive Church Network. ***Howard Bluett***

Goods needed for the Christmas Fair

Please start collecting items for the Christmas Fair. We will put a box out at the back of Church at the end of October. We need the following:

Jigsaw & Games	Toiletries & Unwanted Gifts
Jewellery	Indoor Plants
China and Glass	Craft Items
Chocolate for the Tombola	

Sarah, Nancy & Maureen

Parish Giving Scheme

If you are on our mailing list you will have received details of how effective and simple this scheme is. Making it simple to donate regularly by direct debit. If you haven't yet done it. Do follow this link to set up your regular giving:

[The Parish Giving Scheme Website](#)

MISSION FOCUS – SEPTEMBER

Epsom & Ewell Refugee Network

The network is committed to supporting refugees and asylum seekers in our area. In the decade since they were founded they have grown to meet the needs of an increasing number of refugees. They provide vital services to those new to the country, such as English lessons, help finding work & education, assistance in accessing services, benefits & healthcare, as well as a social network and one-to-one support. See the boards in church or <https://epsomrefugeenetwork.org/> for further details.



Alexander Rennie, Mission Committee

Computer Help Wanted

The person who has looked after my computer for many years is retiring, so I'm looking for someone to take over. Ideally, I'd like someone who could visit every few months to check everything is up to date and help with any queries, as well as being available by phone or email if I need help in between. I'm happy to pay by the hour. If anyone can recommend someone reliable who offers this kind of friendly, ongoing computer support, I'd be very grateful. Please contact Joan at joan.gabbett@yahoo.co.uk or 07952 357523.

Joan Gabbett

PRAYER GROUPS

Evening Prayer on Zoom, weekdays 5-5.30pm

See <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer> All are warmly invited to join on an

occasional or regular basis. Find us at:

<https://zoom.us/j/91650281049?pwd=dLiB4jY8FRRdtFcbGBRjaVtMJ9K2Ar.1> or, if you prefer typing details directly into Zoom, use Meeting ID is 916 5028 1049 and passcode 960460.

Centering Prayer: Every other Tuesday, 4pm in Church

“Be still and know that I am God” *Psalms* 46:10. A group meets to pray together in silence. We begin with something to reflect on - a biblical passage or Psalm. After our 20 minutes of silence, we share something that we have noticed during our time together.

Contemplative Prayer: 1st Tuesday of each month, 11am In the Lady Chapel, St Martin's

A time for focussing on God's presence and allowing oneself to be filled with God's grace. It's a time of stillness and quietness. We listen to the words of God or of Jesus in contemplation. There is an additional zoom Contemplative Prayer session on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 8pm. Find us using the same Zoom details cited above for Evening Prayer.

PRAYING FOR OUR CHURCH AND OUR COMMUNITY

Please remember in your daily prayers this week:

Sunday 20th

Our Deanery Synod: Howard Bluett, Alexander Rennie, John Padwick and Lynne Scholefield. Our Eco Church Team: Helen Williams. Our Missions: Mission to Kenya. Those living and working in Milburn Walk, Mill Road, Millers Copse, Milton Gardens and Mospey Crescent.

Monday 21st

Our vision and work for Social and Racial Justice. Those who lead intercessory prayer and read Bible passages in our services. Local schools and nursery schools. Those living and working in Oak Hill, Oakmead Green, Old Barn Road, Pikes Hill and Pine Hill.

Tuesday 22nd

All who offer welcome and hospitality and serve refreshments at our churches. Those to be married in our churches. Our Missions: Mercy Ships. Those living and working in Pitt Road,

Portland Place, Prospect Place, Providence Place and Randolph Road.

Wednesday 23rd

For someone to volunteer to take on the position of Electoral Roll Officer. Our Church Cleaners. Local doctors' surgeries. Those living and working in Richmond Close, Rosebery Avenue, Rosebery Road, Sadlers Way and South Street.

Thursday 24th

Those recently confirmed in July and those being confirmed on Sunday 27th September at Cuddington, and their growing relationship with God. Preparation for future baptism and confirmation. All who enter St Martin's in the week and pass through our garden. Church Army (supporting and empowering those most in need in UK and Ireland). Those living and working in Spencer Close, Squirrels Way, St George's Gardens, St James' Close, St Martin's Avenue and St Martin's Close.

Friday 25th

The Vale School: children, parents, the Co-Heads, staff and Governors. Scouts (especially our 3rd Epsom (St Martin's) Scout Group), Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and their leaders. Local refuse collectors, those who deliver the post and other items. Those living and working in Station Approach Stevens Close, Strand Close, Sunnybank, and The Grove.

Saturday 26th

Our 'Second Thoughts' programme on the second Sunday at 6.30 pm. Education and training in the Parish and future courses.

Our Missions: PHAB (bringing together disabled and non-disabled to create an inclusive world). Those living and working in The Hayes, The Oaks, The Parade, The Ridge, The Ridings, Tintagel Close and Treadwell Road.

THE POWER OF POETRY – SEPTEMBER

This month's poem is *The Listeners* by Walter de la Mare. He was born in 1873 in Charleton, Kent. He was educated at St Paul's Cathedral Choristers' School. From 1890 – 1908 he worked for the Anglo-American Oil Company, but after he published *Songs of Childhood* in 1902 he was able to spend more time writing – novels, poems, short stories etc. He died in Twickenham in 1956 and is buried in St Paul's Cathedral. I am afraid that this poem is not relevant to church, Christianity, the season, or anything else, but I found myself at a loss this month so decided on this one. Most people who are familiar with this poem seem to like it.

*Is there anybody there?' said the Traveller,
Knocking on the moonlit door;
And his horse in the silence champed the grasses
Of the forest's ferny floor:
And a bird flew up out of the turret,
Above the Traveller's head:
And he smote upon the door again a second time;
'Is there anybody there?' he said.
But no one descended to the Traveller;
No head from the leaf-fringed sill*

*Leaned over and looked into his grey eyes,
Where he stood perplexed and still.
But only a host of phantom listeners
That dwelt in the lone house then
Stood listening in the quiet of the moonlight
To that voice from the world of men:
Stood thronging the faint moonbeams on the dark stair,
That goes down to the empty hall,
Harkening in an air stirred and shaken
By the lonely Traveller's call.
And he felt in his heart their strangeness,
Their stillness answering his cry,
While his horse moved, cropping the dark turf,
'Neath the starred and leafy sky;
For he suddenly smote on the door, even
Louder, and lifted his head:—
'Tell them I came, and no one answered,
That I kept my word,' he said.
Never the least stir made the listeners,
Though every word he spake
Fell echoing through the shadowiness of the still house
From the one man left awake:
Ay, they heard his foot upon the stirrup,
And the sound of iron on stone,
And how the silence surged softly backward,
When the plunging hoofs were gone.*

This poem is probably the most well-known of de la Mare's output, and it often appears in anthologies for children. It has a continuous rhythm, and the letter 's' is used throughout, helping to accentuate the hush of the house. It seems possible to make up any story to

account for the empty house, though not quite empty as it is inhabited by 'phantom listeners' on the stairs, lit only by the moonlight, that descend to an empty hall. The scene is a moonlit night in a forest and de la Mare makes us feel quite clearly the stillness, interrupted by the hammering on the door, the sound of the horse munching the grass, the sudden flapping of the bird, but all the while no sound from within. The traveller himself felt that someone was listening, and before giving up and riding away he shouts a message to that listener. 'Tell them I came, and no-one answered, that I kept my word'. But the phantoms stayed silent and after the traveller left 'the silence surged backwards'.. What had happened to the occupants? Why had the traveller returned with a message? What was the message? Who was the traveller and where had he come from? De la Mare has certainly created a vivid atmosphere with this poem, we can feel the strangeness, the spookiness, and 'hear' the oppressive silence.

I would still like to know who, what and why, though I suppose the main point of the poem is its mystery.

Mary Gilbert

Submitting an item for the newsletter

Please ensure that all items are emailed to the office marked
'For Newsletter' in the title by 12 noon on Wednesday,
to be included for that week.

Parish Office:

**Church House, Church Street, Epsom,
KT17 4PX Phone: 01372 722567
E-mail: office@stmartinsepsom.org
Website: www.stmartinsepsom.org**

FOODBANK REQUESTS

Pasta / Cooking Sauce
Sweetcorn
Tinned Meat
Tinned Vegetables
Beans
Pulses
Noodles
Tinned Potatoes
Tinned Fruit
Jam/Marmalade/Honey
Peanut Butter/Chocolate Spread
Brown Sauce/Ketchup/Mayonnaise



Sponge Pudding
Squash
Sugar
Biscuits
Custard
Rice Pudding
Shampoo
Shower Gel
Hair Conditioner
Children's Toothbrushes and
Toothpaste (0-2yo ONLY)
Male / Female Deodorant
Washing Up Liquid
Toilet Rolls



Harvest wishlist

We would be grateful for your donations, which help to keep our foodbank centres and pantries stocked for those in our community experiencing financial hardship.



Jars of cooking sauces

Pasta sauce

Baked beans

Pulses

Tinned meat

Tinned fish

Tinned fruit

Tinned vegetables

Tinned sweetcorn

Tinned tomatoes

Tinned potatoes

Rice pudding

Custard

Rice / Micro rice

Instant mash

Long-life juice

Instant coffee

Tea (bags)

Ketchup/Brown sauce/Mayo

Cereal (not porridge)

UHT semi skimmed or full fat milk

Powdered milk

Dried Noodles

Long-life sponge puddings

Chocolate / Biscuits

Jam /Honey /Marmalade

Peanut butter / Chocolate spread

Squash

Shampoo/Conditioner

Deodorant

Shower gel

Sanitary Towels/Tampons

Click [here](#) for details of our donation points

If you are organising a delivery directly to our hub (Good Company Hub, Ruxley Lane KT19 0JG), please let us know by contacting us on foodbank@goodcompany.org.uk.



Celebrating Harvest at St Martin's

with
Morning Praise

**10 am
27 September**



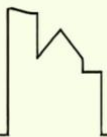
Your gifts are for



Epsom & Ewell
Foodbank
Together with Trussell

**St Martin
of Tours**

Church Street
Epsom KT17 7PX





An invitation from **St Martin's Epsom**

to join our choir to sing
CHORAL EVENSONG

Sunday 20 September

Reheasal 5.15pm

followed by tea & cake

Service at 6.30pm

The music:

Radcliffe's responses

Stanford's Magnificat & Nunc Dimitis in Bb
Harris' anthem 'Fear not, O Land'

Music & robes supplied



SUSTAINABLE *EPSOM & EWELL*



your independent, volunteer-led, local green group



2026 Eco Fair line-up

Saturday 26th September 10.30am to 3.00 pm

EPSOM METHODIST CHURCH

**11-13 Ashley Road
EPSOM KT18 5AQ**

- Epsom and Ewell Repair Cafe** (Repair don't replace)
- Grow Cook Enjoy** (Growing healthy food and making local honey)
- Honey and Bamboo** (Zero waste refill shop)
- Surrey Bat Group** (Giving bats a better chance)
- Surrey Dormouse Group** (Helping dormice in Surrey)
- Surrey Wildflowering Project** (Wildlife friendly areas and street verges)
- Plantlife** (A local voice for wild plants and fungi)
- Epsom and Ewell Borough Council Climate Change Officer** (Surrey Community Energy, HEAT, Surrey Climate Commission)
- Epsom and Ewell Countryside Management** (Managing our local green spaces)
- Epsom and Ewell Tree Advisory Board** (Planting and protecting our trees- guided tree walks on the day)
- Elms over Epsom** (Bringing back elms to our Borough)
- Epsom Common Association** (Protecting our local greenspace)
- Plant based eating information** (including children's activities)
- Climate Action Network Epsom including**
- Library of Things** (Borrow don't buy)
- Food Bank Collection**
- Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group** (Protecting and preserving native reptiles and amphibians)
- Care4Baskets** (Crafting plastic waste into baskets and handmade goods)
- Ni-ka Deluxe** (Handmade skin care products using natural ingredients)
- Kerry's Cards** (Handmade cards with re-used stamps)

and

FOOD AND DRINK

CHILDRENS GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

Music @ St Martin's

FREE!

Autumn/Winter 2026

Saturday afternoons at 4.30pm



Saturday 26 September

City of London Freeman's School

An opportunity to enjoy the musical talents of the young performers studying at this well-renowned local school.

Saturday 24 October

Duo b!z'art

b!z'art or bizarre? Describing themselves as 'out of the ordinary', this pair of pianists from Belgium evoke childhood with music by Bizet, Ravel & Barber.



Saturday 5 December

Iain Macfarlane - organ

As St Martin's resident organist Iain excels in demonstrating the character and range of this fine Norman & Beard instrument. He plays Bach and plenty more besides.

**St Martin
of Tours**

Church Street
Epsom KT17 7PX



Each concert lasts about an hour

**ADMISSION IS FREE BUT WE ASK FOR
DONATIONS TO ENABLE US TO CONTINUE
OFFERING GREAT MUSIC AT ST MARTINS**



• www.stmartinsepsom.org

• office@stmartinsepsom.org

• 01372 722 567

SURREY STANDS WITH UKRAINE AND THE EPSOM & EWELL REFUGEE NETWORK

present

A UKRAINE MUSIC EVENING

organised by Epsom Music and supported by the Menuhin School

SATURDAY 3 OCTOBER 2026 | 6PM-9PM



GASPAR KELEMEN
violin



ARINA KOROLETSKA
opera

FEATURING

Pei Lin Oisin Pu
piano

Oksana Hermanchuk
piano

Kori Sheldunov
violin

EPSOM METHODIST CHURCH

11 Ashley Road, Epsom KT18 5AQ

FREE EVENT

Exit collection for the musicians

REFRESHMENTS & SOCIAL

Please bring some finger food to share

Contact: epsommusicsoc@gmail.com



Epsom & Ewell
Refugee Network
part of good company

EPSOMMUSIC





LUMOS

An
**ANDREA
BOCELLI**

*Candlelight Opera
Experience*

EPSOM

St Martin's Church
Saturday 17th October